REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 42 and 43 have been amended. Claims 42 and 43 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 112

Claims 42 and 43 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

The present specification in paragraph [0031] notes the feature of "outputting a message informing that the installed interface card cannot be operated." Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that it is apparent that the situation where the interface card cannot be operated indicates an error. Therefore, this feature of claims 42 and 43 is supported by the present specification.

It is respectfully noted that the subject matter of the claim need not be described literally (i.e., using the same terms or *in haec verba*) in the specification in order for the disclosure to satisfy the written description requirement. See MPEP 2163.02.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 42 and 43 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsukamoto et al. (US 2002/0048033) (hereinafter "Tsukamoto") in view of the Applicants Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter "AAPA") and further in view of Kanno (US 6,252,609) (hereinafter "Kanno") and Okubo (US 2003/0058471) (hereinafter "Okubo").

Claims 42 and 43

Amended claim 42 recites: "…wherein if the driver program is not stored in the internal storage unit, the processor displays a message for indicating error, and then, after a memory card in which the device driver is stored in a plug-in form is installed in the second interface, the processor displays a selectable menu through the operation panel unit, and if the menu is selected, then the processor drives the interface card using the device driver stored in the memory card."

The Office Action relies on Kanno to show the feature of claim 42 where the processor displays a selectable menu through the operation panel unit, and specifically relies on 10:14-10:36 of Kanno.

Kanno discusses that when the IC card 402 storing functions desired by the user is inserted into the card holder 401, a list of the functions that have been stored on the IC card are displayed on the display screen of the control panel 114. The user selects the necessary functions from this list. Data conforming to the tendency of function use by a specific user can be stored on the IC collectively beforehand in the manner of an "Office Function Set" or "Designer Function Set", etc. Kanno, 10:14-10:36 and Figures 6 and 7.

As shown above, nothing in Kanno suggests the feature of claim 42 where if an interface card is installed in an apparatus, it is determined whether a driver program corresponding to the interface card is stored in a storage unit in the apparatus. In claim 42, if a corresponding driver program is not stored in the storage unit, the interface card is operated using a device driver when a memory card where the device driver is stored in a plug-in form is installed in a slot. This feature is not disclosed in any of the cited references, including Tsukamoto, Kanno, Okubo and the AAPA.

With regard to the above feature, the Office Action argues program IC card of Tsukamoto corresponds to the memory card of claim 42. However, referring to paragraphs [00115] - [00131] of Tsukamoto, it seems that a program is provided while the program IC card is **already installed**. That is, **Tsukamoto merely checks a memory card in the memories which already exist and does not check whether there is a program when a memory card is newly installed. On the other hand, the prevent invention as recited in claim 42 may operate an interface card using a memory card if the memory card is installed in a slot even after an error is found**.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that it is unclear how the list of functions of the IC card 402 of Kanno could modify the disclosure relating to Figure 40 of Tsukamoto where if the software, which is being used, cannot be adapted to the set card, this fact is notified to the OS 1710 through the external interface control module 1724 and the module controller 1712. The OS 1710 performs display on the display portion 1051 to urge the user to perform a required process, such as change of the corresponding program IC card or another card. See Tsukamoto, paragraph [0174] and Figure 40.

As shown above, it is respectfully submitted that these features are clearly not discussed or obviated by Tsukamoto, and further, the present invention as recited in claim 42 could not have been easily made by one of ordinary skill in the art based on the cited references, including Tsukamoto, the AAPA, Kanno and Okubo.

Amended claim 43 recites: "...wherein if the driver program is not stored in the internal storage unit, the processor displays a message for indicating error, and then, after a memory card in which the device driver is stored in a plug-in form is installed in the second interface, the processor displays a selectable menu through the operation panel unit, and if the menu is selected, then the processor drives the interface card using the device driver stored in the memory card."

Claim 43 is believed to be allowable for similar reasons as claim 42.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 42 and 43 patentably distinguish over Tsukamoto, the AAPA, Kanno and Okubo.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

CONCLUSION

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: _April 4, 2012_

By: _Gregory W. Harper_
Gregory W. Harper
Registration No. 55,248

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501